

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16, 18, 30-37, 39, 40, 42-44, 46-48, 50 and 51 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1-16, 18, 30-37, and 39 have been amended; and Claims 41, 45 and 49 have been canceled. Support for the amendments to independent Claims 1, 10, and 30-32 is found in application FIG. 4 and the corresponding specification description. The other amendments to the claims are directed to formalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tahara et al. (WO 00/46989, hereinafter “Tahara”); and Claims 1-16, 18, 32-37, and 39-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tahara further in view of Applicants’ background art.¹

Referring to Tahara U.S. Patent No. 6,671,323 B1 in concert with the Office Action, U.S. Patent Tahara describes “[s]uch ancillary data includes, but is not limited to, text data, closed-captioning data, VITC (vertical interval time code) defined by SMPTE RP164, and LTC (linear time code) defined by RP196.” Tahara further describes “the ancillary data separating circuit 101 extracts the unique information possessed by input video data.”

Referring to Fig. 21, cited in the Office Action, Tahara describes in column 16, line 63 to column 17, line 1:

Now the syntax of Ancillary_data() that adds identifiers to ancillary data will be described with reference to FIG. 21. Ancillary_data(), which is inserted as user data in the picture layer, includes a field identifier (Field_ID), a line number (Line_number), and ancillary data.

¹ The Office Action refers to application FIGS. 9A and 9B as Applicants’ admitted prior art. However, those figures are described in the specifications as “Background Art”.

Further, Tahara shows the upper most line output from controller 405 in FIG. 31 as including ancillary data, line number, field ID, time code 1 and time code 2.

The Office Action asserts “the Examiner cannot ascertain the relevance of applicants’ remarks regarding Figure 31 since Figures 31 describes the configuration of the MPEG decoder which does not perform a recording process.” Thus, the Office Action appears to recognize that Tahara “relates to an encoding system for encoding input video data and a decoding system for decoding encoded streams”² rather than being related to “a recording process”. Thus, with regard to Figs. 1 and 2 and the corresponding specification description of Tahara, video data is encoded and subsequently decoded before being transmitted to second video processor 4.³ Furthermore, the output of the Tahara broadcasting system of FIG. 4 is either local broadcasting station 171⁴ or “the MPEG decoder 170A contained in the set top box at each household ... and decoded video data is supplied to the TV set.”⁵ That is, the disclosure of Tahara “does not perform a recording process” as recognized in the Office Action.

Responsive to the above statement in the Office Action, the output of controller 405 of decoder 144A shown in FIG. 31 of Tahara is Tahara’s description of the data stream supplied to multiplexer 417. That is the output of the decoder 144A.

Finally, in the output of the upper output line of controller 405 in FIG. 31 Tahara intermixes auxiliary data with line number, field ID, time code 1 and time code 2. Thus, there is no description in Tahara that additional information is recorded just after management information as recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 30-32. That is, Tahara does not describe that management information and additional information is formed as a decoding/reproducing unit and recorded in one read/write unit. Furthermore, Tahara does not

² Column 1, lines 8-10.

³ See column 2, lines 12-19.

⁴ See column 6, lines 28-36.

⁵ Column 6, lines 37-43.

describe management information is generated for a plurality of decoding/reproduction units of time-series information, or that additional information is generated for one or more decoding/reproduction units of time-series information. Thus, Tahara fails to describe the features recited in Claims 1, 10 and 30-32 as amended by the amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 2-9, 11-16, 18, 33-37, 39, 40, 42-44, 46-48, 50, and 51 are patentable at least for the reasons argued above with regard to the claims from which they depend.

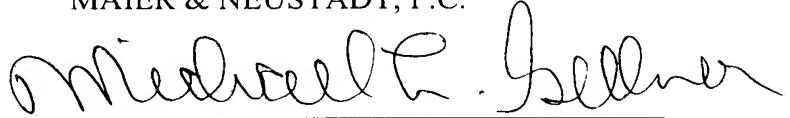
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-16, 18, 30-37 and 39-51 is respectfully requested, and allowance of Claims 1-16, 8, 30-37, 39, 40, 42-44, 46-48, 50, and 51 is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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